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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/417,456	10/13/1999	CHRIS CHEAH	CTC1P001	7475

22434 7590 11/07/2002

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EXAMINER

BAROT, BHARAT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2002

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Handwritten signature

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/417,456

Applicant(s)

Chris Chead

Examiner

Bharat Barot

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 13, 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 41-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 41-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Oct 13, 1999 is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) *substitute*
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 6 & 7
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Drawings

2. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-18 and 41-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nielsen (U.S. Patent No. 5,948,054). Nielsen's patent meets all the limitations for the claims 1-18 and 41-54 recited in the claimed invention.

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5. As to claim 1, Nielsen teaches a computer-implemented method for exchanging certain profile information over a network, the profile information being stored in a database (memory) and pertaining to a plurality of registered users (consultants) (figure 1; and column 5 lines 8-50), the method comprising the acts of: identifying a particular one of the registered users with which a requesting user (customer) desires to exchange profile information with, the requesting user also being one of the registered users; informing the identified registered user via the network that the requesting user has requested to exchange profile information (figures 5-7 and 8s; column 6 line 43 to column 7 line 38; and column 8 line 50 to column 9 line 24); receiving instructions from the identified registered user via the network on whether to permit the exchange of profile information with the requesting user (figure 9; and column 9 lines 25-48); and thereafter exchanging profile information between the requesting user and the identified registered user from the database via the network in accordance with the instructions (figure 11; and column 10 lines 34-46).

6. As to claim 2, Nielsen teaches that the profile information is exchanged only to the extent permitted by the instructions (figure 9; and column 9 lines 25-48).

7. As to claim 3, Nielsen teaches that the network comprises the Internet (column 3 line 67 to column 4 line 15).

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8. As to claims 4-5, Nielsen teaches that the exchanging comprises: identifying first/second profile information in the database pertaining to the identified registered user; and sending the first/second profile information from the database to the requesting user via the network (figures 8s; and column 8 line 50 to column 9 line 24).

9. As to claim 6, Nielsen teaches that the method further comprises: subsequently displaying the profile information associated with the identifier registered user for use by the requestor, the profile information being displayed in a predetermined configuration regardless of the particular identified registered user (figures 8s; and column 8 line 50 to column 9 line 24).

10. As to claim 7, Nielsen teaches that the predetermined configuration with which the displaying displays the profile information is in a business card format (figure 5; and column 6 lines 43-61).

11. As to claims 8-11, they are also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claims 1-2 and 6-7 above.

12. As to claims 12-13, Nielsen teaches that the profile information comprises name, address, telephone number, and electronic mail address and also comprises business name and title (figures 2-4; and column 5 line 51 to column 6 line 28).

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13. As to claim 14, Nielsen teaches that the designating comprises entering at least an electronic mail address for the requested party (figure 5; and column 6 lines 43-61).

14. As to claim 15, Nielsen teaches that the profile information for the registered parties is stored on a remote server machine, the requestor operates at a requestor's local machine and the requested party operates at a requested party's local machine (figure 1; and column 5 lines 14-50), and the exchanging causes the requestor's local machine to receive the profile information for the requested party from the remote server machine to store the profile information on the requestor's local machine for subsequent use (figures 11-12; and column 10 line 34 to column 11 line 21).

15. As to claim 16, it is also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claims 1-2 above.

16. As to claim 17, Nielsen teaches that the determining comprises: sending an authorization inquiry to the particular registered user; receiving an authorization response from the particular registered user in response to the authorization inquiry; and examining the received authorization response to determine whether the particular registered user agrees to release of the user information associated with the particular registered user to the particular requesting user (figures 6-9; column 6 line 62 to column 7 line 38; and column 8 line 41 to column 9 line 48).

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17. As to claim 18, it is also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claims 1-2 above, since claim 18 is merely an apparatus for the method of operation defined in the method claims 1-2.

18. As to claim 41, Nielsen teaches an information management and distribution system, comprising: a system server that stores contact information for registered users (consultants) and stores corporate contact information for business entities having employees (customers); an administrator module that registers a business entity with server system by providing the corporate contact information for the business entity, and the administrator controls registration of the employees of the business entity (figures 1-4; and column 5 line 9 to column 6 line 28); and user modules that enable registered users to distribute their contact information to other registered users by way of the system server, the other registered users receive the contact information that has been distributed with the user modules, and in the case where the registered user is one of the employees of the business entity, the contact information that is distributed includes the corporate contact information (figures 6-7 and 8s; column 6 line 62 to column 7 line 38; and column 8 line 41 to column 9 line 24).

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19. As to claim 42, Nielsen teaches that the administrator module can disable use of the employee contact information for one or more of the previously registered employees (figures 10s and 12; column 9 line 62 to column 10 line 33; and column 10 line 54 to column 11 line 21).

20. As to claims 43-44, Nielsen teaches an information management and exchange system having a plurality of registered users with each user having their own profile information, a method for controlling usability of previously received profile information for a registered user, the method comprising the acts of: selecting one of the registered users to be disabled; identifying those of the registered users whom have previously received profile information from the selected registered user; disabling use of the profile information for the selected registered user by those of the registered users whom have previously received the profile information from the selected registered user; and issuing a notification to one or more of the registered users (figures 8s-10s; and column 8 line 50 to column 10 line 33).

21. As to claim 45, it is also rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claim 41 above, since claim 45 is merely a method of operation for the apparatus defined in the claim 41.

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22. As to claims 46-47, Nielsen teaches that the contact information references or comprises additional information includes at least one of: a graphic object, a text object, a video object, or a link thereto (figures 2-5; column 5 line 51 to column 6 line 36; and column 6 lines 43-61).

23. As to claims 48-50, Nielsen teaches that the method further comprises: displaying the distributed contact information for the one or more employees to the one or more recipients and the contact information in a common format regardless of the employee, wherein the common format is representative of an electronic business card format (figures 5-7; and column 6 line 43 to column 7 line).

24. As to claims 51-52, Nielsen teaches that the recipients are able to contact the employee associated with the distributed contact information by selecting an available communication mechanism; and the available communication mechanisms are those communication mechanisms that have been authorized by the contact information being displayed (figures 5-6 and 11; column 6 line 43 to column 7 line 18; and column 10 lines 34-46).

25. As to claims 53-54, Nielsen teaches that the method further comprises: disabling use by the one or more recipients of the previously distributed contact information for at least one of the employees; and visually notifying the one or more recipients that use of

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the previously distributed contact information for the at least one of the employees is no longer available (figures 10s and 12; column 9 line 62 to column 10 line 33; and column 10 line 54 to column 11 line 21).

26. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Baker et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,678,041). Baker's patent meets all the limitations for the claim 19 recited in the claimed invention.

27. As to claim 19, baker et al teach a method for maintaining information stored in a remote database, the remote database includes information pertaining to a plurality of registered users, the method comprising the acts of: modifying pre-established information for a particular registered user stored in a local database of a local computing device; updating the remote database based on the modifications to the pre-established information; determining those of the registered users that have previously stored the pre established information for the particular registered user in local databases of local computing devices associated with such registered users; and updating the local databases of the local machines associated with the registered users that have previously stored the pre-established information for the particular registered user, the updating being based on the modifications to the pre-established information (figures 1 and 3-6; column 3 line 55 to column 5 line 7; and column 6 line 49 to column 7 line 51).

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Additional References

28. The following references are cited by the examiner as of general interest.

- a. Basche, U.S. Patent No. 6,119,164.
- b. Theimer et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,812,865.

Contact Information

29. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Bharat Barot** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-4092**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **An, Meng-Ai**, can be reached at **(703) 305-9678**. The fax phone numbers for examiner's Art Unit OR Group are **After final response (703) 746-7238, Official response (703) 746-7239, and Unofficial/Draft response (703) 746-7240**.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900**.

Bharat Barot

Patent Examiner Bharat Barot

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October 24, 2002